

HOW WOULD YOU BEHAVE IF YOU WERE A KING?

We glorify God by becoming our best in life.

KEY POINTS

- ❖ The Bible says we're "a royal priesthood" and "kings and priests to God" (1 Peter 2:9; Revelation 1:6 NKJV). So, you are a king. But do you behave like one?
- ❖ To be a king is to become the very best we were created to be. And to be the kingdom of God is to unite within His body of believers to achieve the full expression of Christ with all our combined gifts. Why? To positively impact the world, and to seek and save the lost.

God made people to rule over everything He created on earth except other people.

- ❖ "So God created mankind in his own image..." (Genesis 1:27). Both male and female were made in God's image and likeness.
- ❖ The word 'likeness' contextualizes the meaning of the word 'image,' ensuring the reader knows man is like God but not a deity himself. Genesis 2:15 builds on this by presenting humans as priests who work to tend the garden. So, we were created as stewards whose work served to glorify God.
- ❖ Humans are supposed to subdue the earth and to harness its resources in a responsible way that supports our quality of life. There is no verse in the creation story where we read of people having dominion over other people.
- ❖ Being made in the image of God means we are created to have dominion over all the earth's resources except other people.

Satan tricked people into losing the rule they had.

- ❖ "Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made" (Gen. 3:1).
- ❖ The serpent came and spoke to Eve while her husband was right beside her, and the subsequent wisdom it offered her (v.v. 4-5) made no sense since she had dominion over all the animals. So, what did Eve really see?
- ❖ If we study the original writings, the noun for the original word translates as 'serpent,' but the verb means to practice divination or have supernatural knowledge. The adjective is related to 'shining,' like brass, which is coincidentally like the description of Lucifer before his fall (Isaiah 14:12) and the seraphim Isaiah saw in attendance before God (Is. 6:2). So, while Eve saw the biological serpent, she also saw the celestial being manifested.
- ❖ When Adam and Eve were tending the garden of Eden as God had commanded, Satan tempted them with the very same thing that led to his downfall (see Is. 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:11-19). They fell for it and lost their dominion; Eve became subject to her husband, and the earth no longer cooperated with Adam's efforts to subdue it (Gen. 3:16-19).

The church is the means through which God brings people back to Himself and into rulership.

- ❖ God told Satan that he would strike the heel of the seed of the woman, but that her offspring would crush Satan's head

KEY SCRIPTURE: Genesis 1:26-28
(all scripture in NIV unless otherwise noted)

(Gen. 3:15). That's a prophecy of the coming of Jesus to die so that the relationship Adam and Eve lost with God could be restored.

- ❖ After His resurrection, Jesus left the church on earth to continue His work of making disciples of all nations. This means that we help people to come back into relationship with God and to their position of dominion (see Rev. 1:6, 5:10, and Psalm 8).
- ❖ But to get a picture of what that looks like in the Church, we must begin with Jesus' explanation of the greatest commandment in Matthew 22:37, which is to love God with our whole being. And the second commandment is like it: "Love your neighbor as yourself" (v. 39).
- ❖ This type of love creates the liberty that releases people to fully self-actualize. It begins with loving yourself because you are made in the image of God and makes room for people to become what God created them to be. That's why Jesus finishes with: "All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments" (v. 40).
- ❖ How the Church becomes an effective witness in the world can be found in John 13, when Jesus says, "A new command I give you: Love one another..." (v.v. 34-35).
- ❖ God, through the church, helps us to know who we are and what gifts He has given us. We are to build our lives on that rather than trying to become what we're not.
- ❖ We're meant to behave as kings and priests. By creating communities that look and act like heaven, we can usher in the kingdom of God by our presence. Let's do so by building others up, not by pulling them down.
- ❖ We believe in the dignity of the human being, that everyone is made in the image of God to become the very best they were created to be. We glorify God by becoming our best in life.

REFLECTION TOOLS

1. How would you behave if you were a king? When thinking about royal figures such as King Charles, Queen Elizabeth, etc., what attributes have they exemplified? Are there certain characteristics that those of royal pedigree should or should not possess? Are there similar attributes that we as "kings and priests to God" (Revelation 1:6) should also exemplify?
2. In addition to being "kings and priest," the Bible also tells us that we are "a royal priesthood" (1 Peter 2:9). What does this mean to you personally? What does this mean from a biblical standpoint (i.e., Exodus 19:6; Romans 12:1-2; 1 Pet. 2:5; Hebrews 13:15, Rev. 5:10)?

PRAYER TIME

I am a child of the King. Lord, help me to realize who I am in You and to behave accordingly. Amen.

WEEK OF SUNDAY, JANUARY 4, 2026

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

✓ (Reminds me/Confirms)  (New idea)  (Think about)

! (Do this)  (Speaks to my heart)  (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

Go deeper with your Life Group family.
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD
Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline

PRAYER FOCUS: F.S. Ministries: Departments, Directors, and participants.

24-hour Prayer: Daily;

Daily Devotions: Monday - Friday @ 6:30 a.m. & 9:00 p.m.;

Departmental Prayer: Every Thursday (please check schedule)

Corporate Prayer: Every Friday @ 7:00 p.m. (and in person every second Friday @ 9:00 p.m. - 3:00 a.m.).

Zoom ID: 898 3191 5909 **Phone Access:** 647-374-4685

FAITH SANCTUARY DONATIONS

To donate online, please go to www.faithsanctuary.com/give
For email transfers, please use donate@faithsanctuary.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FS PRAYER HOSTS AND LEADERS' MEETING

Starting January 2026, there will be monthly update meetings. Access is through the FS "Departmental Meetings" zoom link on www.faithsanctuary.com.

Date: Every 2nd Sunday

Time: 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Contact: Bro. Mike Allen



FAITH SANCTUARY WEEKLY SERVICES

Sunday Bible Study @ 10:00 a.m.

Sunday Worship Service @ 11:00 a.m.
(Listen via phone: 1-844-268-4848)

Monday Berean Bible Study @ 6:30 p.m.
(Zoom, Facebook, YouTube)

Wednesday Bible Study @ 7:30 p.m.
(In person and via Zoom)

Friday Evening Service @ 8:00 p.m.
(In person and via Zoom)

Life Group Meetings – individually scheduled
(see ushers for information)

FAITH FOUNDATIONS

GOD

We believe there is only one God: the eternal, holy, loving, all-knowing, all-powerful, omnipresent Spirit, creator of all (Deuteronomy 6:4; 1 Timothy 1:17; Leviticus 19:2; 1 John 4:8; Hebrews 4:13; Revelation 19:6; Jeremiah 23:24; John 4:24; Isaiah 44:24; Colossians 1:16).

GOD'S WORD

We believe the Holy Scriptures—The Bible—is God's true and complete Word to humanity, verified most notably through fulfilled prophecies concerning Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Isaiah 41:21-23, 42:8-9, 46:9-10; Luke 24:25-27; John 17:17).

GOD'S CREATION

We believe all people were created in the image of God for His pleasure, to be His children, His church and His bride, living in eternal love and fellowship with Him (Revelation 4:1; Genesis 1:27; John 1:12-13; Romans 8:16; Ephesians 5:25-32; Revelation 19:7).

HUMANITY'S FALL

We acknowledge that we have all sinned and failed to fulfill God's plan and purpose for our lives, through willful disobedience to the word of God and our own conscience. All sinful acts lead to separation and alienation from God's pure, holy presence, eventually resulting in both physical and spiritual death (Romans 3:23, 6:23a).

THE GOSPEL

We believe that Jesus Christ is the Almighty God, fully divine and fully human (1 Timothy 3:16). He came to Earth and suffered death by crucifixion, willingly substituting Himself for us in receiving God's judgment against sin (Isaiah 53:5). But God raised Him from death (Acts 5:30), and He now offers eternal life to all who will believe in Him (John 3:14-17, 6:29; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21; Romans 6:23b; Ephesians 2:4-9). Faith is sparked within us when we hear the gospel, the "good news" that Jesus died, was buried and rose from the dead for our benefit (Romans 10:14-17; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

OUR FAITH RESPONSE

Hearing the gospel is intended to lead us to repentance, a divinely inspired change of heart that causes us to turn away from our sins and turn to God (2 Corinthians 7:9-10; 2 Timothy 2:24-26). Faith and repentance lead us to obey the scriptural command to be baptized in Jesus' name for the forgiveness of our sins and to receive His gift of the Holy Spirit. His Spirit gives us the power to live a righteous, godly life, joyfully sharing the good news of our new life in Christ with others (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38, 4:12; 1 Peter 1:22-23).

CHRIST'S RETURN

We believe our Lord Jesus Christ will soon return to Earth to receive His people to Himself and establish His righteous, eternal kingdom (John 14:3; Matthew 25:34).

JANUARY 4, 2026

Faith **SANCTUARY**

Feed Canada to Feed the World

Reaching the World Through Prayer
~2026~

Pastor:
Rev. Adrian W. Peel

"So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them."
Genesis 1:27 (NIV)

1901 Jane St., Toronto, Ontario M9N 3T9

Phone: 416-244-4898

Email: mail@faithsanctuary.com

Website: www.faithsanctuary.com

Livestream: <https://faithsanctuarytoronto.online.church>